

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-2640

Strand Theater

1 Shipping Place

Dundalk, Baltimore County

1926

Private

The Strand Theater was constructed in 1926 in the heart of Dundalk and dates to a period of significant growth in this model suburb of Baltimore. Dundalk initially developed as a station along the Baltimore and Sparrows Point Railroad and was named for the home of Henry McShane, who operated a foundry in the community. Dundalk's growth occurred over two distinct phases. The purchase by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1916 of 1,000 acres for the construction of worker housing was the initial spark that ignited the community's expansion. The Dundalk Company formed shortly thereafter in an effort to manage the community's growth and establish a model suburb on the east side of Baltimore City. Dundalk's population and building stock grew considerably after the creation of industrial jobs brought on by United States involvement in World War I. This expansion had a negative effect on prior efforts at managed growth in the community. A short period of stagnation between 1920 and 1924 ended with the re-involvement of the Dundalk Company in the community. It was at this point that the commercial district was created, forming a central core in the town. The Strand Theater dates to this later period of growth in the community. The theater opened two years after construction on it began. The Strand Theater officially closed circa 1975. The community of Dundalk retains its mid-20th century character.

The Strand Theatre is located in historic Dundalk at the southeast corner of Shipping Place and Shipway Road. This Colonial Revival building fronts west and is attached to the adjacent building with a party wall. Standing two-stories tall and three-bays wide, the structure of the building consists of bricks laid in five-course American bond. The first story of the façade, clad with granite slabs and vinyl tiles, exhibits two, double-leaf plate glass metal doors that have two-lights. Also piercing the façade is a one-light fixed window made of metal and four, one-light display windows that are fixed and metal. On the second story there are two, round-arched windows with round-arched concrete lintels. The central rectangular window on the second story is made with glass block. Outlining the central bay are paired ionic pilasters that are made of stylized concrete. A distinguishing feature of the façade is its projecting, metal marquis that hangs over the first story in a triangular shape. The flat roof is accented with a central, stepped parapet that is ornamented with a metal frieze. On the rear, the stepped parapet spans the width of the building. An interior end brick chimney rises from one of these rear steps with a brick row-lock cap. The north elevation is characterized by concrete panels surrounded by brick and separated by brick buttresses.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2640

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Strand Theatre

other

2. Location

street and number 1 Shipping Place not for publication

city, town Dundalk vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 3122 Investment LLC C/O Miller Corporate

street and number Suite 200 31 Light Street telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21202-1211

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 13789 folio 466

city, town Towson tax map 103 tax parcel 444 tax ID number 1218036160

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2640

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Strand Theatre is located in historic Dundalk at the southeast corner of Shipping Place and Shipway Road. This Colonial Revival building constructed in 1926 fronts west and is attached to the adjacent building with a party wall. Standing two-stories tall and three-bays wide, the structure of the building consists of bricks laid in five-course American bond. The first story of the façade, clad with granite slabs and vinyl tiles, exhibits two, double-leaf plate glass metal doors that have two-lights. Also piercing the façade is a one-light fixed window made of metal and four, one-light display windows that are fixed and metal. On the second story there are two, round-arched windows with round-arched concrete lintels. The central rectangular window on the second story is made with glass block. Outlining the central bay are paired ionic pilasters that are made of stylized concrete. A distinguishing feature of the façade is its projecting, metal marquis that hangs over the first story in a triangular shape. The flat roof is accented with a central, stepped parapet that is ornamented with a metal frieze. On the rear, the stepped parapet spans the width of the building. An interior end brick chimney rises from one of these rear steps with a brick row-lock cap. The north elevation is characterized by concrete panels surrounded by brick and separated by brick buttresses.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2640

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1926-present **Architect/Builder** John F. Eyring, architect

Construction dates 1926

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Strand Theater was constructed in 1926 in the heart of Dundalk and dates to a period of significant growth in this model suburb of Baltimore. Dundalk initially developed as a station along the Baltimore and Sparrows Point Railroad and was named for the home of Henry McShane, who operated a foundry in the community. The community's early 20th century landscape was traversed by farmland owned by only a few families. Dundalk's growth occurred over two distinct phases. The purchase by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1916 of 1,000 acres for the construction of worker housing was the initial spark that ignited the community's expansion. The Dundalk Company formed shortly thereafter in an effort to manage the community's growth and establish a model suburb on the east side of Baltimore City. Within one year, the town featured sixty-two dwellings, two stores, and one post office. Dundalk's population and building stock grew considerably after the creation of industrial jobs brought on by United States involvement in World War I. This expansion had a negative effect on prior efforts at managed growth in the community. At the end of the war, the temporary housing quickly constructed for the war industry often remained empty. A short period of stagnation between 1920 and 1924 ended with the re-involvement of the Dundalk Company in the community. It was at this point that the commercial district was created, forming a central core in the town. Whereas Dundalk's population in 1920 was only 2,000 inhabitants, this number had climbed to 8,000 only ten years later.¹ The Strand Theater dates to this later period of growth in the community. The theater opened two years after construction on it began. The Strand Theater officially closed circa 1975.² The community of Dundalk retains its mid-20th century character.

¹ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), pp. 327-330.

² Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2640

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less Than One Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1925, the Strand Theater has been associated with the 9,000 square feet of land known as tax parcel 444 of map 103 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

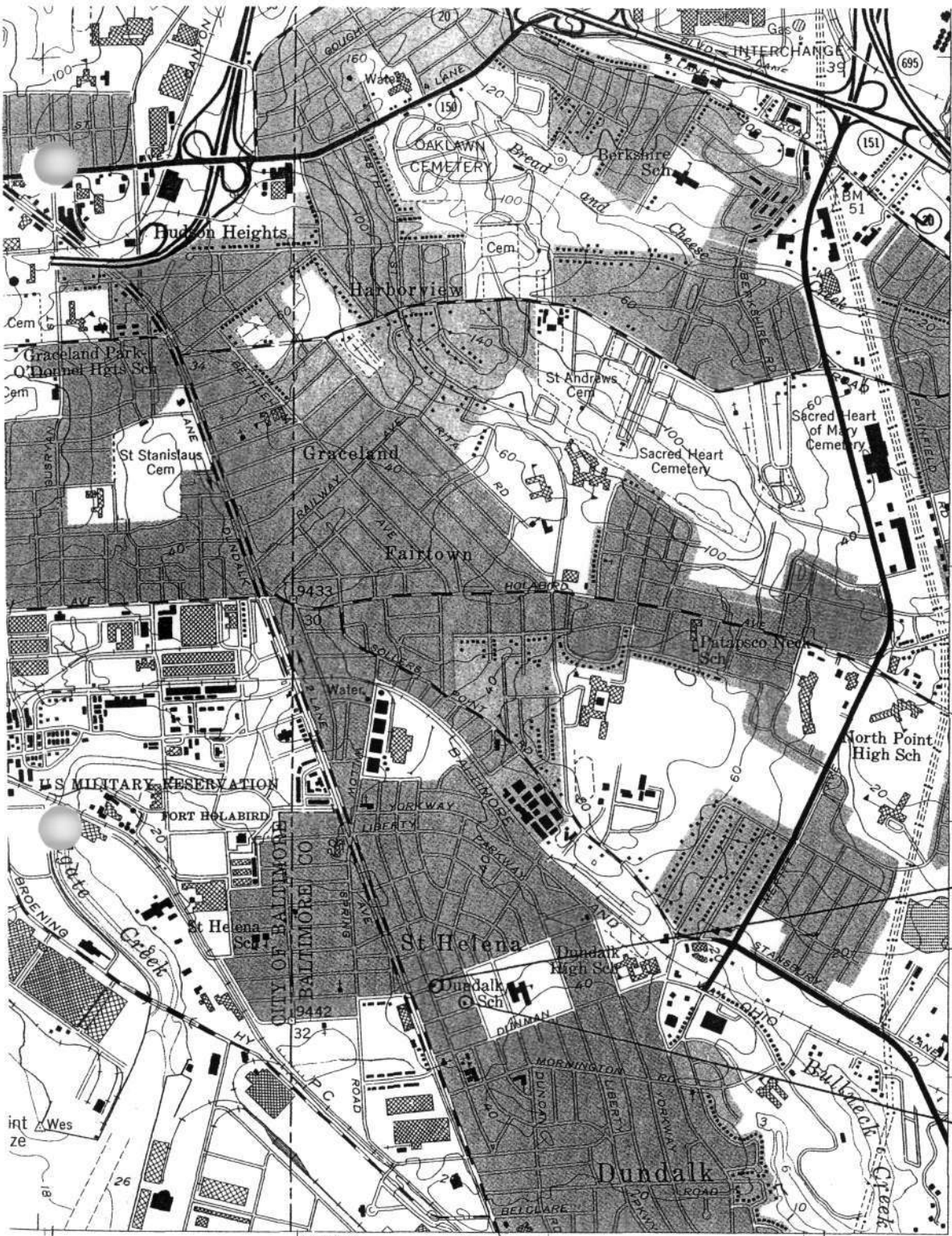
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 22, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



17'30"
NORTH POINT 1.3 MI.
SPARROWS POINT 4.3 MI.

4348

4347

4346000m.N.

39°15'
76°30'

BA-2640
1 SHIPPING PLAZA
DUNDALK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2374
10 CENTER PLAZA
DUNDALK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

(SPARROWS POINT)
5762 III NW

32'30"

368000m.E

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976
SPARROWS POINT 3.4 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

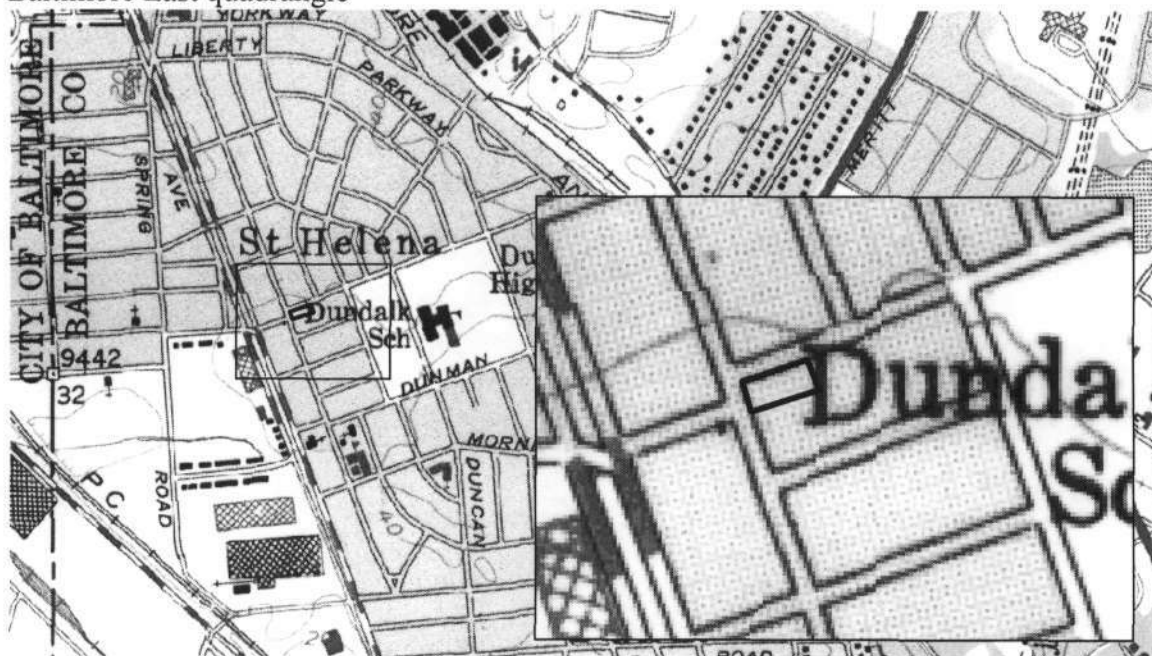
- | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy-duty | ————— | Light-duty | ————— |
| Medium-duty | ————— | Unimproved dirt | ===== |
| Interstate Route | ⬢ | U. S. Route | ⬢ |
| | | State Route | ⬢ |



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

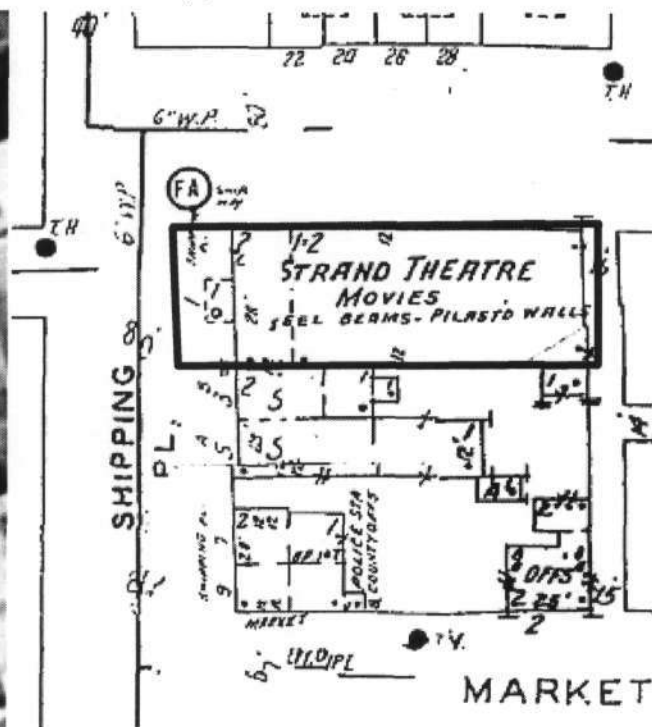
BALTIMORE EAST, MD.
SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3915—W7630/7.5
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974
AMS 5662 I SE—SERIES V833

BA-2640
 Strand Theatre
 1 Shipping Place, Dundalk
 Baltimore East quadrangle



Google Earth image, c. 2007

Sanborn Map, 1959





BA-2640

1 SHIPPING PLACE

DUNDALK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPO

W ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-2640

1 SHIPPING PLACE

DUNDALK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

NW CORNER

2 of 3



BA-2640

1 SHIPPING PLACE

DUNDALIC

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

E ELEVATION

3 & 3